



Embassy of the United States, Addis Ababa

Volume 7, Issue 31

August 11, 2005

Weekly Special Report



Produced by the Public Affairs Section

INSIDE

United States Support Improves Primary-School Education

Donation Ceremony Marks the Handover of More Than 50,000 Books

Addis Ababa (U.S. Embassy) – As part of its ongoing commitment to support Ethiopia's educational system, the United States is donating over 50,000 English-language reading books for use in primary schools across the country. This donation is part of a program administered by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) that is also providing over 100,000

grade-five English textbooks and more than 300,000 copies of educational magazines for use in Ethiopia's schools.



ICDR Director Ato Tizazu Asare, Dr. Sam Westgate, Vice Minister Dereje Terefe and USAID Director William Hammink at the donation ceremony

Speaking at a handover ceremony held at the In-

stitute of Curriculum Development and Research (ICDR) on August 11, USAID-Ethiopia Director William Hammink said,

"This donation is made possible by President Bush's Africa Education Initiative, which we believe has the potential to dramatically enhance teaching in Ethiopia's primary schools. We are proud to be working with

(Continued on page 2)

U.S. Embassy Launches Diversity Visa (DV) Awareness Campaign

Reaching Out to Fight Fraud

Addis Ababa (U.S. Embassy) – The U.S. Embassy in Addis Ababa wants to make sure that all Ethiopians have the information they need to make informed decisions about the U.S. Government's annual Diversity Visa (DV) program. Misinformation, misunderstanding, and outright lies

from dishonest businesses and individuals have the potential to cost members of the public both time and money, and even to make applicants participants in serious fraud schemes that could make them ineligible for visas for the rest of their lives. The DV Program was established to allow up to

55,000 visas a year for applicants in countries under-represented in U.S. immigration patterns. Ethiopia is among the participating countries, and interest in the program is especially high here. With a new season for DV applications approaching (the

(Continued on page 2)

Embassy news

U.S. Embassy in Addis Ababa Launches a New Web Site (P 3)

African issues

U.S. Food Aid to Niger Part of Larger Program for Africa (P 4)

United States Expresses Concern over Violence in Sudan (P 5)

United States Transports Rwandan Civilian Police to Darfur (P 6)

U.S. Treasury Announces More Sanctions Against Zimbabwe Regime (P 7)

American News

United States Marks Anniversary of 1998 African Embassy Bombings (P 8)

President Bush Marks 40th Anniversary of Voting Rights Act (P 9)

United States Celebrates Voting Rights Act's 40th Anniversary (P 10)

John H. Johnson, American Publisher and Businessman, Dies (P 12)

Second National Powwow Brings Native Americans to Washington (P 13)

International issue

Rumsfeld Says Free Nations Cannot Wait for Terrorist Attacks (P 14)

United States Support Improves Primary-School Education . . .

(Continued from page 1)

Ethiopia's schools to help this country's children be better prepared for productive futures." Also attending the ceremony were Vice Minister of Education Dereje Terefe and ICDR's Director, Ato Tizazu Asare, along with Embassy Public Affairs Director Sam Westgate.

Created in 2002, the Africa Education Initiative (AEI) is working across the continent to improve educational opportunities for Africa's children over a five-year period. The Initiative's Textbook Development Program supports a partnership between Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in the U.S. and counterparts in Africa. Hampton University has worked with a consortium of HBCUs to create high-quality,

low-cost, relevant learning materials for six African countries, including Ethiopia. Over the past 10 months, a team from consortium



Some of the donated primary school books

member Alabama A&M University has been collaborating with the ICDR, USAID/Ethiopia, and Ethiopia's Regional Education Bureaus to develop grade-five English textbooks, 100,000 copies of which

will be in use by October 2005. The Initiative is also providing 300,000 Scholastic magazines, which have already been distributed to over 3,000 schools throughout Ethiopia.

Along with the AEI, U.S. support for education in Ethiopia takes many forms, including scholarships that enable girls to complete secondary education, teacher training, and curriculum-development programs such as an August 2004 workshop that brought together experts from across the country to examine how better to pass on vital English-language skills. That workshop was followed by the creation and distribution of over 35,000 copies of English reading books for eighth-graders. ♦

U.S. Embassy Launches Diversity Visa (DV) . . .

(Continued from page 1)

application period will run from November 4, 2005, through January 6, 2006), the U.S. Embassy is starting a campaign – in Amharic, Afaan Oromo, Tigrigna, and Somali, as well as English – to make sure Ethiopians know more about the program. Using brochures, advertisements, and radio announcements, the Embassy will make as widely available as possible information like the following:

- **The U.S. Government does not communicate via e-mail regarding the DV program;** any e-mail you receive – saying you've been selected or asking for money in return for assistance with the program – is a fraud.
- **There is no fee to enter the DV Lottery.** You do not need an agent or an attorney to complete your entry or application for you. Winners pay fees ONLY to the U.S. Embassy when a case is being processed.
- **You can apply for the DV only via the Internet,** at www.dvlottery.state.gov. The online application will include basic personal information and requires a photograph. It is the responsibility of the applicant to make sure that all aspects of the application are accurate and complete. Applicants must apply only once; if it is discovered you have entered more than once, your application will be automatically disqualified
- **Applicants do not need a sponsor** in the U.S. to apply for the DV, and **applicants do not**

need to be married. Applicants who supply false sponsorship documents or who are proven to have participated in marriages solely for the purpose of receiving a visa are ineligible to receive a U.S. visa for the rest of their lives.

Full information on the Diversity Visa Program is available from the website of the U.S. Embassy in Addis Ababa, at addisababa.usembassy.gov. Questions about the DV process can be submitted by e-mail to the Embassy's Consular Section at consaddis@state.gov. ♦

SEE the English and Amharic DV flyer at the back of this Week's Special Report

U.S. Embassy in Addis Ababa Launches a new web site



The website of the Embassy of the United States to Ethiopia has undergone a major transformation, in a redesign process updating both the form and content of the site. It now spans wider and goes deeper to stand as the ultimate source of information on the United States in Ethiopia.

The revamping of the site is part of an effort from the U.S. State Department to present a consistent entry point to authoritative information on the United States, and create a common look and feel of all U.S. representations worldwide.

On the front page, the site focuses on Embassy activities, as well as major local and global news, while also providing quick access to core topics within the site, and links to important outside resources. The site is divided into five main sub-sections:

- Embassy Information
- Visa and Consular Information
- American Citizens Services
- U.S. Policy and Issues
- Resources

the United States, whereas American Citizens Services has resources for U.S. citizens abroad. Under U.S. Policy and Issues you will find a collection of links to information on the major policy areas in which the State Department is involved. Finally, in the U.S. Information section there are a number of portals for a wide variety of users, ranging from teachers, travelers and students, to academics and media professionals.

Some of these portals are still under construction, but already represent a major step ahead in terms of establishing this reorganized site as the resource of choice for anyone in Ethiopia wanting information on the United States.

Welcome to our new site - we hope you will enjoy it. ♦

<http://ethiopia.usembassy.gov>

The Embassy section has all relevant information on the operations of the U.S. Mission to Ethiopia, including the Ambassador's speeches. Visa and Consular Information is addressed to Ethiopians traveling to

U.S. Food Aid to Niger Part of Larger Program for Africa

By Aviva Altmann
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- America's latest response to the emergency food crisis in Niger is part of an existing effort that focuses on regional solutions to development issues in the Sahel region of Africa.

The recent announcement of \$7.5 million more in food aid to Niger by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is related to a larger American program -- the West Africa Regional Program (WARP), worth \$40 million -- designed to focus on regional development on the continent.

The WARP initiative is run by USAID, which has provided more than \$127 million in overall assistance in 2005 to help improve the lives of the people in the Sahel, according to an August 3 USAID press release. WARP reflects the U.S. policy of working through regional organizations in Africa as much as possible to foster home-grown development partnerships.

The Sahelian countries benefit from WARP through participation in development programs operated by the West African Economic and Monetary Union, the Economic Community of West African States and the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the

Sahel.

WARP aims to fight poverty by dealing specifically with four issues: fostering regional trade; increasing the effectiveness of health policy, including HIV/AIDS; improving food security and management of natural resources; and improving peace in western Africa, the USAID release said.



Airlift of U.S. food aid commodities to Niger, August 5, 2005
Credit: USAID/Alexandra Riboul

Much of the \$127 million USAID has devoted to programs in the Sahel is now aimed at the more than 3.6 million people affected by locust and drought problems -- \$14 million funded locust eradication programs, which included aerial spraying of 383,000 hectares and assistance to regional responders across North and West Africa.

In response to the recent food crisis in Niger, USAID has increased humanitarian aid to the country by more than half. The agency plans to contribute approximately \$13.5 million in humanitarian aid to Niger, specifically

focused on food security, agriculture and nutrition; \$7.5 million of this amount is new assistance. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/af/Archive/2005/Aug/03-27326.html>).)

Niger -- the second poorest country in the world, according to the United Nations Development Program -- suffered an exceptionally

poor agricultural season in 2004 because of massive locust infestations and drought in the region. Because of the widespread poverty, the people had no other food sources to rely on, and the current emergency arose.

Approximately one-third of Niger's population has been affected by the

food shortage -- a total of 3.8 million people, 800,000 of whom are children under the age of 5, who are especially susceptible to death from malnutrition.

Although rain has begun in the region, ameliorating the drought situation, the people are still at risk for malnutrition because their crops will not be ready for harvest until October. Food aid is needed to keep the people healthy enough to last until the harvest.

Other countries that will receive humanitarian aid in the Sahel region include Burkina Faso, Mali,

(Continued on page 11)

United States Expresses Concern over Violence in Sudan

The United States expressed concern August 3 over reports of violence in Khartoum, Sudan, following the death of First Vice President John Garang, who died in a helicopter crash over the weekend.

Garang, the former leader of the southern independence movement SPLA -- the Sudanese People's Liberation Army -- played a pivotal role in the implementation of the peace accord between southern and northern Sudan and recently became the country's first vice president.

State Department acting Spokesman Tom Casey said, "We strongly urge all parties to work diligently toward Dr. Garang's vision of a unified, prosperous, and peaceful Sudan."

Following is the text of the State Department statement:

(begin text)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Office of the Spokesman
August 3, 2005

STATEMENT BY TOM CASEY,
ACTING SPOKESMAN

SITUATION IN SUDAN

The United States is deeply concerned over reports of violence in Khartoum. We echo the calls of the Government of National Unity, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement, and Mrs. Rebecca Ga-



American officials in Khartoum expressed optimism Sunday Aug. 7 2005 that Sudan's fragile peace would hold and that a strong, unified new leadership would continue forward despite the death of dominant southern leader John Garang. Connie Newman, front, head of the State Department's Africa bureau, and Roger Winter, right, special representative to Sudan, said they were assured in recent days by leaders of the government and Garang's Sudan People's Liberation Movement that both sides are committed to implementation of the January peace agreement with no changes. AP Photo/Abd Raouf)

rang that the Sudanese refrain from violence.

We urge the Government of National Unity to take urgent steps to stop the violence, promote recon-

ciliation, and maintain momentum on implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. President Bashir recognized the gravity of the situation when he called an emergency cabinet meeting today, and invited the senior Sudan People's Liberation Movement's officer in Khartoum to participate. It is our understanding that the Government has deployed additional security forces in Khartoum and other areas to stop the violence. The United States joins the rest of the international community in calling for the Government to urgently take the additional steps that may be necessary and to send a clear message to all the people of Sudan regarding its determination to stop the violence and the steps being taken.

The United States remains firmly committed to the cause of peace in all of Sudan, including implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and resolution of the humanitarian crisis in Darfur.

We strongly urge all parties to work diligently toward Dr. Garang's vision of a unified, prosperous, and peaceful Sudan.

(end text)

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U. S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦

United States Transports Rwandan Civilian Police to Darfur

The United States transported 49 Rwandan civilian police officers by commercial aircraft to the war-torn Darfur region of western Sudan August 7, in the latest effort to improve security and enable humanitarian assistance to reach hundreds of thousands of displaced persons in the area.

The action was reported August 8 in a U.S. Department of Defense news release.

The movement is part of an effort that began last July after the African Union (AU) asked NATO to assist with the transport of its peace-keeping forces to the region, the release said. At that time, 150 U.S. Air Force personnel from Germany and England deployed to provide logistical and airlift support of Rwandan forces in Sudan.

The AU plans to increase its presence in the region to more than 7,700 personnel by September.

Following is the text of the release:

(begin text)

[United States Department of Defense
August 8, 2005]

U.S. Moves Rwandan Civilian Police to War-Torn Darfur

American Forces Press Service
Stuttgart-Vaihingen, Germany,

Aug. 8, 2005 – A U.S.-contracted commercial aircraft moved 49 Rwandan civilian police officers from Kigali, Rwanda, to El Fashir airfield in the war-torn Darfur region of Sudan Aug. 7.



Rwandan troops board a US Air Force plane in Kigali, Rwanda, in July 2005 to be dispatched to Darfur. An American civil aviation aircraft flew 49 civilian police officers to the war-torn region in response to a request from the African Union (AU) to NATO (AFP/File/Jose Cendon)

The move was in response to a request by the African Union to NATO. The movement of civilian police and AU peace monitors is part of an effort that began July 14, when 150 U.S. Air Force personnel from Germany and England deployed to provide logistical and airlift support of Rwandan forces as part of the African Union's expanded mission in Sudan, or AMIS II. The AU plans to increase its presence in the region to more than 7,700 personnel by September.

NATO officials notified the U.S. of the AU's desire to move the civilian officers on Aug. 5, Air Force

Brig. Gen. Richard Mills, deputy director of the U.S. European Command Plans and Operations Center here, said.

"The AU wanted to move the civilian police into theater as quickly as possible," Mills said. "Once we were notified, a plan went into action to rapidly transport them, space available, in conjunction with the ongoing deployment of the second Rwandan military battalion."

As part of a larger NATO effort, the U.S. is airlifting three battalions of Rwandan troops to Darfur by mid September. Movement of the first battalion's 680 troops and 14,500 pounds of cargo began July 17 and was completed July 27 by U.S. Air Force C-17 and C-

130 aircraft. The C-130s also returned 190 previously deployed Rwandan troops from El Fashir back to Kigali. Those U.S. aircraft and personnel have returned to home station.

Two additional Rwandan battalions of approximately 540 soldiers each are being flown via U.S.-contracted commercial airlift. Movement of the second battalion commenced on Aug 2 and finished Aug. 7. Planners at EU-COM anticipate the third Rwandan battalion will be flown to El Fashir around Sept. 10-19. A small number of U.S. military remain in Kigali

(Continued on page 8)

U.S. Treasury Announces More Sanctions Against Zimbabwe Regime

The U.S. Department of the Treasury, in cooperation with the Department of State, announced additional economic restrictions August 3 against President Robert Mugabe's Zimbabwean regime. The sanctions are designed to further prohibit trade and financial relations between the United States and 24 commercial farms and two businesses controlled by key members of the Mugabe government.

"The Mugabe regime rules through politically motivated violence and intimidation and has triggered the collapse of the rule of law in Zimbabwe," said Robert Werner, director of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control, as quoted in a Treasury Department press release.

"By denying the Mugabe regime access to the U.S. financial system and U.S. persons, we're cutting off the flow of support they could use to further destabilize Zimbabwe," Werner said.

Following is the text of the press release:

(begin text)

[U.S. Department of the Treasury]
August 3, 2005

Washington -- The U.S. Department of the Treasury today designated twenty-six Zimbabwean entities -- 24 commercial farms and two businesses controlled by key members of the Mugabe regime. This designation is pursuant to Executive Order 13288, which is aimed at blocking the property of persons undermining democratic

processes in Zimbabwe.

"The Mugabe regime rules through politically motivated violence and intimidation and has triggered the collapse of the rule of law in Zimbabwe," said Robert Werner, Director of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC). "By denying the Mugabe regime access to the U.S. financial system and U.S. persons, we're cutting off the flow of support they could use to further destabilize Zimbabwe."

The commercial farms are among those handed to favored members of Zimbabwean President Robert Gabriel Mugabe's regime following his chaotic land redistribution scheme. The two other businesses designated today include: Cold Comfort Farm Trust Co-Operative, an agricultural cooperative controlled by Didymus Noel Mutasa, Minister of National Security; and Ndlovu Motorways, which is controlled by Sikhanyiso Ndlovu. Both Mutasa and Ndlovu were listed in the Annex of E.O. 13288.

E.O. 13288 imposes economic sanctions on persons who undermine democratic processes and institutions in Zimbabwe. Included in the Annex are President Mugabe, and 76 other Zimbabwean government officials and persons of influence. Executive Order 13288 provides for the blocking of properties within U.S. jurisdiction or the possession or control of U.S. persons in which the SDNs [specially designated nationals] have an interest, and it also denies them access to the U.S. financial

system.

Today's designation is the result of close cooperation between OFAC and the U.S. State Department. The Departments of Treasury and State will continue to utilize the authorities under E.O. 13288 to financially isolate those disrupting democracy in Zimbabwe. Today's action brings the total number of designations under E.O. 13288 to 110 individuals and entities.

Doing business with an SDN of Zimbabwe may carry criminal penalties of up to \$500,000, twice the monetary gain or loss per violation for an organization. Individual criminal penalties may be up to \$250,000 or twice the monetary gain or loss per violation. Individuals may also face imprisonment for up to ten years for a criminal violation. In addition, civil penalties of up to \$11,000 per violation may be imposed administratively.

This Department of Treasury press release may be viewed at: <http://www.treas.gov/press/releases/js2676.htm>

A complete list of the entities designated today [may be viewed at]: <http://www.treas.gov/offices/enforcement/ofac/actions/>

(end text)

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦

United States Marks Anniversary of 1998 African Embassy Bombings

The United States marks the seventh anniversary of the terrorist bombing of its embassies in Kenya and Tanzania in 1998, when more than 200 people were killed and another 5,000 were injured.

In an August 7 statement, the State Department honored "the memory of our fallen colleagues" and "the citizens of Tanzania and Kenya who suffered with us in this devastating tragedy."

See U.S. Embassy Bombings (http://usinfo.state.gov/is/international_security/terrorism/embassy_bombings.html) for more information.

Following is the text of the statement:

(begin text)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Office of the Spokesman
August 7, 2005

STATEMENT BY ADAM ERELI,
DEPUTY SPOKESMAN

The Seventh Anniversary Of The
1998 Bombings In East Africa

Kenyans, and Tanzanians died in these heinous attacks, and approximately 5,000 people were injured.

On this solemn occasion, we are reminded of the dangers faced by our diplomats and foreign service nationals abroad and their courage in confronting terrorists who target the innocent. We remember, too, the citizens of Tanzania and Kenya who suffered with us in this devastating tragedy. We honor the memory of our fallen colleagues and express our deepest sympathies to their families, the surviving victims, and the people of Kenya and Tanzania.

(end text)

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦



Judy Muthoni, left, and Rosemary Wanjiru, right, lay flowers at the memorial site for the bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya Sunday, Aug. 7, 2005. (AP Photo/Khalil)

Today marks the seventh anniversary of the terrorist bombings of the U.S. embassies in Nairobi, Kenya and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. More than 200 Americans,

United States Transports Rwandan . . .

(Continued from page 6)

to support the contracted movements.

President Bush on July 15 authorized an additional \$6 million in emergency spending for the Defense Department to support the transportation of African Union forces to Darfur to help improve security and enable humanitarian assistance to relieve suffering to those displaced by conflict in the region.

(From a U.S. European Command news release.)

(end text)

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦

President Bush Marks 40th Anniversary of Voting Rights Act

In a proclamation designating August 6 as a day of celebration to mark the 40th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, President Bush August 5 said the act "was a great step forward in the history of our nation, and it remains essential as we continue our progress toward a society in which every person of every background can realize the American dream."

Stating that "America is a stronger and better nation" because of that law, Bush said, "we reaffirm this bedrock commitment to equality and justice for all."

The 1965 law prohibited literacy tests and poll taxes as a means of assessing whether someone was fit to vote. The only requirement for voting now is American citizenship and having one's name on a list of registered voters.

Following is the text of the presidential proclamation:

(begin text)

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
(Crawford, Texas)
August 5, 2005

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

In America, we believe in the freedom of every individual. This freedom includes the ability to participate in one of the most cherished rights and fundamental responsibilities of citizenship: the right to

vote. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 helped ensure that all citizens would have the opportunity to vote, regardless of race. As President Lyndon Johnson said when he signed the Act, "Millions of Americans are denied the right to vote because of their color. This law will ensure them the right to vote. The wrong is one which no American, in his heart, can justify. The right is one which no American, true to our principles,



U.S. President Lyndon B. Johnson signs the Voting Rights Act of 1965 in Washington, D.C. on August 6, 1965.

can deny." As we celebrate the 40th anniversary of this historic act, we reaffirm this bedrock commitment to equality and justice for all.

America's history is a story of people working for freedom, justice, and equality. We have made great progress toward achieving these ideals. In the middle of the 20th century, the conscience of America was awakened by the struggles and the courage of those who overcame racial slurs, fire hoses, and burning crosses. Brave men and women held sit-ins at lunch counters, rode buses on Freedom Rides, and marched in our Nation's Capital and throughout our country to demand the full promise of the Declaration of Independence. The

work of these courageous Americans led to the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and we remember their heroism on this anniversary.

America is a stronger and better Nation because of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. As President Johnson said upon signing the Act, it is "a triumph for freedom as huge as any victory that has ever been won on any battlefield." The Act was a great step forward in the history of our Nation, and it remains essential as we continue our progress toward a society in which every person of every background can realize the American Dream.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and Laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim August 6, 2005, as a day of celebration in honor of the 40th Anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. I call upon all Americans to observe this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fifth day of August, in the year of our Lord two thousand five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.

GEORGE W. BUSH

(end text)

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U. S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦

United States Celebrates Voting Rights Act's 40th Anniversary

By Aviva Altmann
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- From the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776 to the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s, Americans have demonstrated, protested and given their lives for one basic freedom: the right to vote.

But true victory did not come for all citizens of the United States until President Lyndon Baines Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act into law in 1965.

"[On] the issue of equal rights for American Negroes ... the command of the Constitution is plain. It is wrong -- deadly wrong -- to deny any of your fellow Americans the right to vote in this country," President Johnson said of the landmark effort that transformed the U.S. vote.

August 6, 2005, marks the 40th anniversary of the signing of this act, which outlawed literacy tests and poll taxes as means of assessing whether or not someone was fit to vote. The act requires only American citizenship and one's name on the list of registered voters.

To commemorate the anniversary, a coalition of activists is holding a march and rally in Atlanta, Georgia, on August 6. Civil rights groups, labor unions, members of Congress, and religious and political leaders will partici-

pate. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the Service Employees International Union, the Reverend Jesse L. Jackson Sr., AFL-CIO President John Sweeney, and Representatives John Lewis and Maxine Waters are among the many who plan to attend.

it will continue as we work with Congress to reauthorize the historic Voting Rights Act."

Other commemorative activities include the opening of an exhibit at Atlanta's Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site chronicling the struggle of African-Americans to secure their right to vote.



Civil rights activist Jesse Jackson (R-center) leads a march with singer Harry Belafonte (L-R), AFL-CIO president John Sweeney, and Rep. Nancy Pelosi in downtown Atlanta to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act and to call attention to the re-authorization of the act in Atlanta, Georgia August 6, 2005. REUTERS/Steve Schaefer

The 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, ratified in February 1870, promised: "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude."

Minorities, however, especially African-Americans, were still prevented from voting because of qualifying factors such as literary tests and poll taxes.

The march and rally serve not only to commemorate the anniversary but also to publicize a campaign to extend the Voting Rights Act, provisions of which will expire in 2007 if not renewed.

Attorney General Alberto Gonzales announced his commitment to ensuring the renewal of the act in a speech in Austin, Texas, on August 2. "As our pursuit of voting rights has evolved, so too has our commitment to the founding values of our country," he said. "And

It took the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s for African-Americans to gain enough support to truly win the inalienable right to vote. The passage of the Civil Rights Act in 1964 ignited the passions of both blacks and whites around the country to organize and rally for the rights of blacks.

The campaign to bring about federal intervention in the fight for civil rights culminated with the historic Selma-to-Montgomery March in Alabama. On March 7, 1965, a

(Continued on page 11)

States Celebrates Voting Rights Act's . . .

(Continued from page 10)

day known in infamy throughout the country as "Bloody Sunday," the marchers set out on their path to Montgomery, only to be met by police who attacked them with billy clubs and tear gas, sending them back to Selma. The protesters managed to complete their march three weeks later, gaining 25,000 participants by March 25.



Alberto Gonzales
Attorney General

Following this public demonstration, President Johnson (a Democrat) joined with Senate Minority Leader Everett Dirksen (a Republican), assuring bipartisan support, to craft the legislation that would become the Voting Rights Act. The House of

Representatives passed the act by a 328-74 margin on August 3, and the Senate followed the next day, voting 79-18 -- in both cases an overwhelming majority.

President Johnson signed the act on August 6, accompanied by civil rights leaders Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and John Lewis (now a member of Congress).

By the end of 1965, the five states of the "Deep South" alone registered 160,000 new African-American voters. The effects of the higher participation of black voters can be seen today: in 2000, registration of African-Americans trailed that of whites by

only 2 percent.

Attorney General Gonzales recognized the importance of the act and the significance of its effects on the American voting demographic in his August 2 speech: "In 1965, President Johnson said that 'the vote is the most powerful instrument ever devised by man for breaking down injustice.' President Johnson could not have been more right. And that's why we strive today to give every single American a voice in our democracy."

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦

U.S. Food Aid to Niger Part of Larger Program . . .

(Continued from page 4)

Mauritania and Senegal. In addition to food aid, they also benefit from HIV/AIDS prevention and other health programs, education and job enhancement programs, and economic enhancement programs.

USAID focuses the majority of its assistance to Burkina Faso on combating food insecurity, as the citizens are implementing lean-season coping mechanisms, such as migrating in search of food, according to the United Nations. Total funds going to Burkina Faso for 2005 will be \$16.2 million, including money for 24,240 metric tons of development food commodities,

inexpensive food staples used for development activities that address food security goals.

According to the World Food Program, the food crisis in Mali currently affects 2.2 million people, 20 percent of the country's population. Approximately 5,000 children experience acute malnutrition, and the infant mortality rate has reached record levels in certain parts of the country. For fiscal year (FY) 2005, USAID provided 2,710 metric tons of development food commodities and plans to give aid worth a total of \$36.4 million.

USAID activities in Mauritania focus predominantly on combating food insecurity. To this end, USAID provided 15,080 metric tons of development food assistance and 16,240 metric tons of emergency food assistance to Mauritania in FY 2005. Overall, Mauritania will receive \$13.9 million for FY 2005.

For information, see U.S. Aid to Africa (http://usinfo.state.gov/af/africa/aid_to_africa.html).

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦

John H. Johnson, American Publisher and Businessman, Dies

By Aviva Altmann
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington — John H. Johnson, founder and chief executive officer of the Johnson Publishing Company who was recognized as an emblem of the American Dream, an embodiment of the Civil Rights movement and a revolutionary businessman, died August 8 of heart failure at the age of 87.

Johnson is best known for starting *Ebony* and *Jet*, two widely read magazines aimed at black audiences. Other achievements included publishing books and owning Fashion Fair Cosmetics and several radio stations, as well as having majority ownership in Supreme Liberty Life Insurance.

Johnson personified the idea that hard work and determination can lead to success. He was also well known for saying, "Failure is a word I simply don't accept." His life story serves as a model of the "rags to riches" ideal, as he grew up on welfare and ended his life as one of the nation's wealthiest businessmen.

His first venture was a small magazine called the *Negro Digest*, which he started in 1942 with \$500 from a loan secured by his mother's new furniture. Since then he had built holdings worth \$498.2 million, according to an August 9 article in the *Washington Post*.

In 1982, Johnson was the first African-American to be included in *Forbes Magazine's* "400 Richest Americans." His 1989 autobiography, "Succeeding Against The Odds," was a national bestseller.

Howard University President H. Patrick Swygert attested to Johnson's legacy as an inspiration at a 2003 campus ceremony honoring the business leader, saying he was "a testimony to what is possible



John H. Johnson

provided that one has the courage to dream and the opportunities to make [those dreams] into reality."

Born January 19, 1918, in Arkansas City, Arkansas, Johnson grew up with his widowed mother, moving to Chicago in 1933 so he would have the chance to go to secondary school — his hometown offered no education for blacks beyond primary school.

After thriving in high school as the class and student council president, an honor student, and the newspaper and yearbook editor, Johnson won a scholarship to the University of Chicago. He took classes at night while working as an office boy at the Supreme Life Insurance Company, where he was in charge of compiling stories

about the black community and sending them to Supreme's president.

It was in this position that Johnson realized that there were no magazines or publications designed for black people. This inspired him to create the *Negro Digest*.

The magazine began to draw a following when Johnson sent out letters asking for donations to fund its publication. Three thousand people donated \$2 each, and within a year the magazine was selling 50,000 copies a month.

In November 1945, *Negro Digest* evolved into *Ebony* -- a magazine modeled after *Life* -- and focused on black successes and achievements. Today, this magazine reaches about 42 percent of all African-American adults, with a paid circulation of about 1.7 million people.

Johnson also founded *Jet*, a weekly newsmagazine that covers highly recognized African-American individuals and events, as well as hard-hitting news stories from a black perspective. More than 927,000 people currently subscribe to *Jet*.

In September 1955, *Jet* published the highly controversial images of the open casket of Emmett Till, a 14-year-old Chicago boy who had been beaten to death by white men in Mississippi. While the images were thoroughly disturbing, Johnson felt they needed to be published. "I decided finally that if it happened, it was our responsibility to print it and let the

(Continued on page 15)

Second National Powwow Brings Native Americans to Washington

By Elizabeth Farabee
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- Some 800 Native American singers, dancers and drummers from throughout the Western Hemisphere will showcase their talent in dancing and drumming competitions at the second National Powwow in Washington, D.C., August 12-14.

Thousands of visitors from the United States and abroad are expected to attend the three-day festival -- a celebration of dance, music and culture hosted by the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI).

Dancers representing hundreds of tribal nations and ranging in age from six years old to over 50 years old will compete for \$100,000 in prize money. There is also a competition for drum groups.

The powwow "will be a wonderful opportunity for the museum to share the thrilling experience of competition dancing," said Richard West, NMAI director and a member of the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes.

This festival is one of a series of events that the museum is hosting to fulfill its mission to "enhance the development, maintenance, and perpetuation of Native culture and community."

Participants from all over the United States and Canada, as well as other Western Hemisphere nations including Peru, Bolivia and

Chile, have been invited to take part in the festival.

The Smithsonian's National Powwow is one of several such events that take place regularly in the United States, including the Denver March in Colorado, the Red Earth Festival in Oklahoma, and the Gathering of Nations Powwow in New Mexico.



Some Native Americans travel on a powwow circuit. These dancers and drummers typically "get in cars going from one powwow to the next," explained Leonda Levchuck, a NMAI representative. "Ours is just one stop in many."

The NMAI first opened on September 21, 2004, and is the newest museum of the Smithsonian Institution. It recognizes and hon-

ors the rich history and cultural tradition of the Native American, a central figure in the history of the Americas.

The museum and events such as the powwow are representative of an increased interest in Native American culture in the United States and worldwide, Levchuck said. She remarked that a large number of reporters from the European media, including representatives from the Ukraine, Russia and Germany, attended the opening of the museum last year.

There is also a much greater acceptance of Native American heritage and culture now, said Levchuck, who is Navajo. "Fifteen to twenty years ago, it wasn't acceptable to say you were native," she said. "Now more people are interested in finding their native heritage."

A research center in the museum allows members of the more than 500 native nations in the Americas to learn more about their ancestry. The museum, which is located on the National Mall, also houses the most comprehensive collection of American Indian cultural objects in the world.

The term "powwow" derived from Narragansett, an eastern Algonquian language, according to the Smithsonian. Its meaning has evolved over the years, and in Indian Country it came to mean a "secular event featuring group

(Continued on page 15)

Rumsfeld Says Free Nations Cannot Wait for Terrorist Attacks

By Merle D. Kellerhals, Jr.
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- The only way to defeat terrorism is to go after the terrorists where they are, and not wait to be attacked, says U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld.

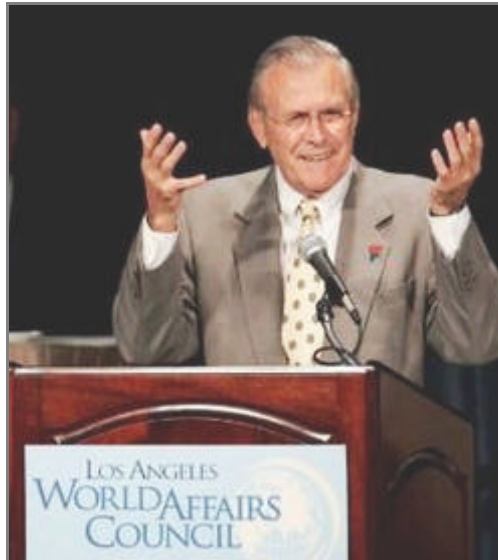
"And that's exactly what our global coalition has done, and what our troops are doing today in Afghanistan and Iraq and elsewhere around the globe," Rumsfeld said in a speech to the Los Angeles World Affairs Council August 4.

The struggle to defeat terrorism had required President Bush to fashion the largest coalition in recent history, some 90 nations working together, sharing intelligence and cooperating, the secretary said.

"In the near term, we're confronting terrorists, capturing or killing them, and depriving them of their sanctuaries. Ultimately, success will depend on advancing the cause of freedom and democracy as an alternative to the grim vision of the terrorists," he said.

Rumsfeld added that once Iraq is fully in the hands of the Iraqi people, a government elected under a new constitution, and Iraqi security and military forces capable of providing security, the U.S.-led coalition forces can turn responsibility over to them.

"This war of ideas is at the heart of the war on terror; a conflict be-



U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld speaks at the Los Angeles World Affairs Council luncheon, California August 4, 2005.

REUTERS/Robert Galbraith

tween a totalitarian ideology of the extremists, and the now-tested vision of free societies," he noted. "The fanaticism of these enemies can only be defeated if we successfully employ all elements of national power: military to be sure, but more diplomatic, financial, intelligence-sharing and law enforcement."

The defense secretary rejected some critics' claims that terrorists attacked London recently because of British participation in the coalition in Iraq.

"They seem to cling to the discredited theory that the recent attacks in London and elsewhere, for example, are really in retaliation for the war in Iraq or for the so-called

occupation of Afghanistan. That is nonsense," he said.

"The United States and its allies did not provoke the terrorists; the terrorists attacked America," Rumsfeld said.

Rumsfeld reminded the World Affairs Council audience that on September 11, 2001, there were no U.S. or coalition forces in Afghanistan or Iraq. He said there was no war in Iraq or Afghanistan when terrorists attacked U.S. personnel at the Beirut barracks in 1983, the Khobar Towers complex in Saudi Arabia in 1996, U.S. embassies in Africa in 1998, or aboard the USS Cole in a Yemeni port in 2000.

And Rumsfeld said no one should make the mistake of thinking that acquiescing to terrorist demands by withdrawing from Iraq and Afghanistan would end the threat of future terrorist threats.

"Terrorists do not seek a negotiated settlement with the West or with the moderate Muslim nations, and they're not appeased by concessions," he said.

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦

PUBLIC AFFAIRS
SECTION
AMERICAN EMBASSY

P.O.Box 1014
Addis Ababa
Ethiopia

Phone: 251-1-174007
251-1-174000
Fax: 251-1-242454
Email: pasaddis@state.gov



Second National Powwow Brings Native . . .

(Continued from page 13)

singing and social dancing by men, women, and children."

A Smithsonian brochure on the National Powwow describes the roles of the drums, singers and dancers during a powwow. The head singer, who guides the drum, uses his extensive knowledge of tribal songs to play both new compositions and traditional songs that have been passed down from generation to generation.

Two broad singing styles characterize the powwow — the high-pitched singing and fast drumbeat of the northern Plains, and the low-pitched, slow beat of the southern Plains.

Among the criteria that dancers are judged by are how well they stayed in beat with the drums, and the quality of their regalia.

During the three-day event, native

food and crafts will be available for purchase on site. Food vendors will offer traditional cuisine including Indian tacos, frybread, and corn soup, while award-winning jewelers and artisans will sell authentic arts and crafts.

The National Powwow (<http://www.nmai.si.edu/powwow2005/information.html>) will be held at the MCI Center in downtown Washington.

Additional information (<http://www.nmai.si.edu/>) is available at the NMAI Web site

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦

John H. Johnson, American Publisher . . .

(Continued from page 12)

world experience man's inhumanity to man," he said.

A philanthropist, Johnson donated to many worthy causes, including a gift of \$4 million to historically black Howard University in Washington, D.C., which recognized him by renaming its school of communications after him.

He also served on many advisory commissions at the local, state, and federal levels. In addition, he served on the boards of a number of major corporations and educational, cultural, and philanthropic organizations.

Johnson attended the University of Chicago and Northwestern University, but never completed a degree. During his lifetime he received honorary degrees from 31 schools, including Harvard, Howard, and Northwestern universities.

The Reverend Jesse Jackson, who had worked with Johnson 40 years ago selling *Ebony* and *Jet*, said Johnson "gave [African-Americans] our first mirror to see ourselves as a people of dignity, a people with intelligence and beauty."

U.S. Representative Bobby Rush (Democrat of Illinois), in an August 8 statement, lauded Johnson for

his commitment to illustrating the success of the African-American people: "For over 60 years, he told our stories of triumph and success that other media outlets often chose to ignore. By providing a voice for African-Americans to tell their story, he was able to provide his readers with words, pictures, and an archive of our history."

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦